



Upper Payette Cooperative Weed Management Area

2003 End of Year Report

Introduction

The Upper Payette Cooperative Weed Management Area (UPCWMA) was developed to facilitate effective treatment and coordinate control efforts over the long-term. The UPCWMA has developed common management objectives, set realistic management priorities, and identified priority weed species.

The goals of the UPCWMA are to: Prevent the introduction, reproduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive exotic plants; Reduce the extent and density of established noxious weeds to levels that are acceptable; Implement the most economical and effective control methods for target weeds; Implement an integrated management system using appropriate methods of treatment and control; Educate the public as to the importance of proper weed management and get the needed media coverage to show what is being done.

The area covered by this Agreement includes portions of Valley, Boise, and Gem Counties.

The major weeds of importance in the area include whitetop, leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, yellow starthistle, scotch thistle, Canada thistle, rush skeletonweed, Dalmatian toadflax and yellow toadflax. Major efforts are being made to control these weeds each year.

The 2004 Chairperson of the Upper Payette CWMA is John Johann, the Vice Chair position is vacant while Michael Diem is serving as secretary. Cooperators in the CWMA include private landowners, county government, state and federal land management agencies, as well as interested individuals and organizations.

Summary of Year 2003 Projects

This year was another big success for the CWMA. The program is definitely growing each year and our reputation is spreading. The following were the primary accomplishments this year:

CWMA Coordination Meetings

Several coordination meetings were held prior to the field season to establish objectives, goals, finalize the annual operating plan, receive direction from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, and plan the summer's events. Three coordination meetings were held during the winter and early spring.

Lowman Dalmation Toadflax

Cooperators gathered for 3 days to treat Dalmation Toadflax along the South Fork Payette River Corridor from Lowman to Grandjean. The area has approximately 3500 acres infested with both Dalmation Toadflax and Spotted Knapweed. The focus was along roads, trails and in recreation areas that are significant contributors to the spread of noxious weeds. The cooperators mustered 19 people with 9 spray trucks, 8 ATVs with sprayers and two horses with spray packs during this 3-day effort. Over 400 acres of often steep, rough and wooded terrain were treated along with 20 miles of state highway and 16 miles of Forest Service roads.



Canaday Ranch Leafy Spurge

Boise County Weed Control Workers treated the 460-acre Canaday Ranch in Garden Valley for Leafy Spurge and spotted knapweed. The county, with financial assistance from the landowner and Idaho Department of Agriculture were able to cover the entire ranch and treat noxious weeds with pickup sprayers, ATVs, and backpacks.

Scotch Thistle

Fourteen Landowners, Forest Service and Boise County Weed Control workers treated 495 acres infested with Scotch Thistle and White Top in the Horseshoe Bend area. This project was well received by landowners and allowed treatment on land that had previously not been accessible to weed control workers. This project involved both landowners who were provided with chemicals purchased by the Upper Payette CWMA and landowners who assisted County and Forest Service weed workers.



Horseshoe Bend Millpond

Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Boise County Weed Control treated the 11-acre Mill Pond recreation area at Horseshoe Bend for Eurasian Water Milfoil using two methods. First the pond was drawn down to its minimum level allowing the shoreline to freeze and kill the exposed milfoil and a treatment with SONAR aquatic herbicide was used on the remaining area. The pond is a favorite fishing area and signs warning of the milfoil's potential spread have been posted to educate the public on the weed's hazards and mechanism of spread.



Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC) Skeleton Weed Study

Students for Horseshoe Bend High School Ecology class conducted a study on what affect grazing has on Rush Skeleton weed. The study area was fenced using a private donation and Costshare monies then grazed by horses. In preparing for the study Boise County Weed Control workers introduced the students to GIS mapping and helped the students layout and measure the plot using the county's GPS units and computers. Although the study area was small, 1 acre grazed and 1 acre as a control, the students learned about the methodology used to conduct vegetation studies in a rangeland environment and gained an appreciation for the affects of invasive weeds.



Valley County No Till Drill

Cooperators have committed over 300 acres earmarked for restorations using the no till drill in the early spring of 2004. Because of late funding the drill did not arrive until mid October of this year.

City of McCall

Cooperators gathered in McCall for two days to treat over sixty acres of Spotted Knapweed within the city. This joint effort will go a long way toward enabling the City of McCall to cut the Knapweed down to a manageable level.



Valley County Cost Share

During 2003 over 40 landowners took on the task of controlling Noxious Weeds on their property. This project gets Private Landowners involved. They are provided with chemicals purchased by the CWMA and consultation and equipment from the County.

Payette Lake Eurasian Water Milfoil

During the 2003 season 50 days were spent removing 42,000 pounds of Eurasian Milfoil for Payette Lake. This year, this project reached one of its many management plateaus – being able to control milfoil in Payette Lake by diver dredging. But, there is still a lot of work to do until we can economically control this aggressive invader.



Gem County Weed Control Scotch Thistle

Gem County has had a number of small Scotch Thistle problems over the past ten years. The thistle had been gaining ground and spreading on private lands to where it would have been a major problem. With this grant real help was offered to the landowner with free herbicide in trade for their In-kind information. For those landowners that needed applications also, Gem Co. Weed Control did that for a reduced rate fee. This year we were able to help twelve landowners battle their ST. A total of 43 acres of ST, 6 acres of PH, and 3 acres of RS were treated.

Montour Eurasian Watermilfoil

Within the Montour Wildlife Recreation Area is a series of three ponds and large ditches that help with drainage and flood control. This land is owned by the BOR and is managed by the IDF&G. Gem Co. Weed Control worked with BOR and F&G personnel together with Pat Thomas of UAP to decide what method of control would work best in this situation. When a herbicide was decided as the best approach, Pat recommended Reward and Cutrine. The UP and F&G split the cost of the herbicide and GCWC did the application in late August and early September.

The plan was to treat two ponds in strips over a period of time as to not have a fish kill. Both ponds totaled twelve acres and we treated two acres of both ponds. After ten days we noticed some effect but not what we expected. It was decided that we would wait until next year after the waterfowl had finished nesting to finish the treatments for EM. At that time we should get much better results.

Montour

The Montour Project started with a planning meeting for the BOR, IDF&G, GCWC, UPCWMA, and Gem Co. Commissioners on February 28. On March 14, Gem Co. Weed Control set up a Montour Weed Tour that was attended by thirteen persons including BOR, IDF&G, IN&P Railroad, Gem Commissioners, USFS, UPCWMA, and UAP company Reps. On April 9th, the UPCWMA gathered at the old railroad depot in Montour for a field-burning project.

On May 13th, a person started a two month spray project to treat PH one month and CT the second. He was hired and paid by Gem County but the BOR and Fish & Game reimbursed this. On a daily basis he used Gem Co Weed Control equipment – pick-up, trailer, ATV spray rig, and portable pump.

On June 12th, the UPCWMA had a project day. Fourteen workers showed up with spray rigs and ATV's and spent a day spraying weeds. 68 acres of weeds were treated that day. During July, Gem County Weed Control treated all known spotted knapweed, and leafy spurge sites. All are small patches but are scattered. In August and September, GCWC treated all PL sites. These are all small patches but scattered over the valley. In October, GCWC did some fall treatments on Canada thistle and PH.

Although progress is being made, it will take time to get all of Montour's noxious weeds under control.



Ola Highway Dalmatian Toadflax Project

Preliminary scouting showed a great reduction in the number of plants and the density of stands from previous years. However, the same ground had to be covered, as there was Dalmatian Toadflax plants scattered over the area.

Originally scheduled for May 28th & 29th, the project dates were pushed back one week as the plants were not in full flower yet. On June 4th, a total of 18 people met at the site with equipment ready to spray Dalmatian toadflax. They included a landowner, seven Forest Service, four Boise Co., four Valley Co., and two Gem Co. personnel. Unfortunately, the wind came up and blew to the point where we had to cancel. As wind was forecast for the 5th also, we rescheduled for June 10th & 11th. The landowner would not be able to attend those dates, so she worked in a wind-protected area of their ranch. On June 5th, the landowner and Gem County weed control both sprayed.

On June 10th, a total of 14 people met again to complete the project. They included three Forest Service, four Valley Co., four Boise Co., and two Gem Co. personnel. Spray trucks and ATVs worked areas where they could access and backpackers worked the rocky areas and steep hills. On June 11th, a total of 11 people showed up. These included three Valley co., three Boise Co., three Gem Co., and two SILD (Gem Co. Sheriff's Inmate Labor Detention). While some backpackers finished the area on the west side of Squaw Ck., the rest used a boat and ropes to cross the creek and began spraying in that area. The SILD workers carried pre-mixed herbicide in 2.5 gal jugs to the backpackers working on the steep hillsides.

This DT infestation covers about 2000 acres on both sides of Squaw Ck. About half of this land is private and half is owned by BLM. Gem County owns a strip that would be the County road running from Sweet to Ola. The BLM will reimburse Gem Co. \$1000.00 toward this project. The landowners had a total of \$540.00 In-Kind, which was added to the Non-Federal. The Upper Payette CWMA received a grant through the ISDA for \$1575.00. This paid for the herbicide we applied. Approximately 20 acres of DT was sprayed in this 2000-acre area.

Yellow Starthistle

Gem County has three areas of concern with Yellow Starthistle. One ranch on Liberty Rd. had a small patch that was treated for several years. The last two years none has been found.

Another ranch on the east side of Sweet has been fighting YS for over ten years. Gem Co. Weed Control has been assisting through this time by pulling, spot spraying, and one-year boom spraying a large area. Whether

a seed bank, missed plants going to seed or both is the source of our problem, we keep finding small outbreaks throughout the area. This ranch is non-irrigated pastures of mostly Medusahead so the YS is stunted and hard to find.

The third area is a large subdivided ranch southwest of the intersection of Hwy 52 and Montour Rd. This rancher has several pastures and areas around his shop that were heavily infested and several small satellite patches.

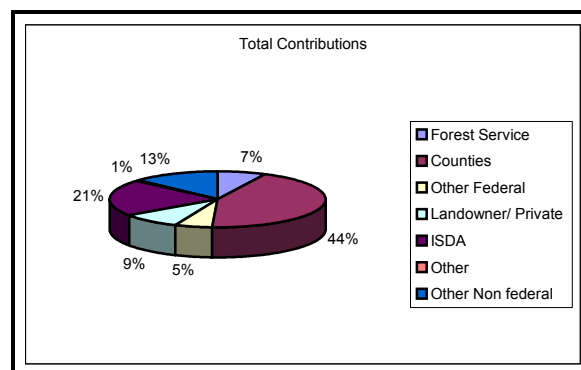
On both ranches Tordon was used the last two years to control Yellow starthistle. Good results are being noted, but we will be several years in getting this weed eradicated.

A total of five acres were treated this year.

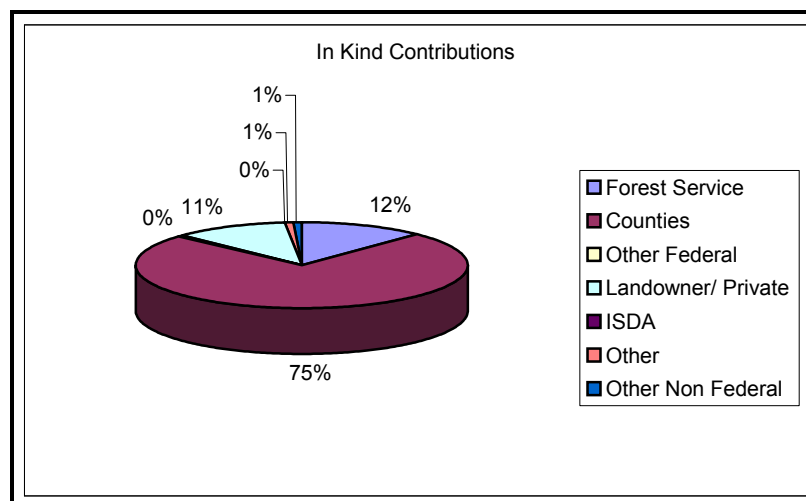
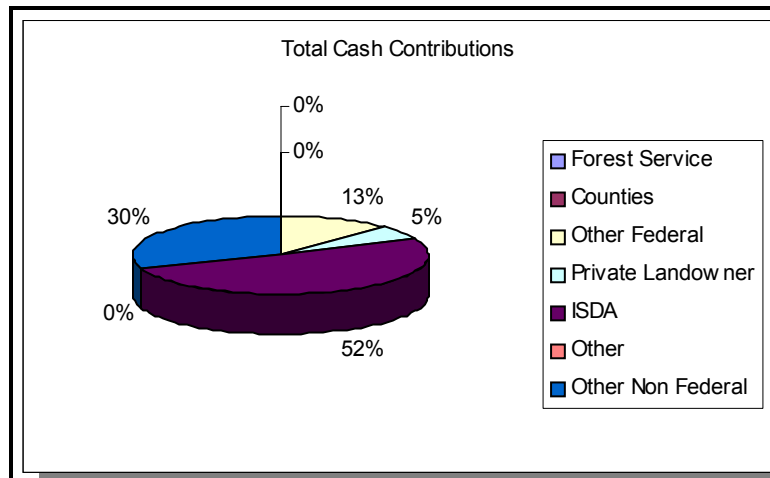


Contributions and Expenditures for 2003

The following pie chart shows a break down of the total contributions obtained for the Upper Payette CWMA during the 2003 season. **The total contributions received were \$192,040.00.**



The following two pie charts show a break down of cash fund contributions and in kind contributions (i.e. time, equipment, and supplies, etc.) for the CWMA. \$79,332.00 in cash was contributed by cooperators and individuals. In kind contributions totaled \$112,708.00.



2004 Season

The Upper Payette CWMA is expanding several successful events for Year 2004. Some of them include:

- Valley County Cost Share Program
- Lowman Dalmation Toadflax Control
- Ola/Sweet Dalmation Toadflax
- McCall Knapweed Control
- Montour Weed Control
- Garden Valley Community Spray Days

Appendix I

Steering Committee

Chairman: Mike Bottoms
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Appendix II

Project Summaries:

Category	Weed species	Acres treated
<i>Revegetation</i>	Yellow toadflax, Canada thistle and spotted knapweed	Approx. 500 acres committed in 2004
<i>Treated</i>	Dalmation toadflax	500
	Spotted knapweed	220
	Leafy spurge	20
	Whitetop & Scotch thistle	570
	Yellow starthistle	5
	Canada thistle	220
	Eurasian Watermilfoil	25
<i>Public Contacts</i>	N/A	590 Public Contacts

Appendix III

Map of Upper Payette Cooperative Weed Management Area

